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THOMAS, KAYDEN, HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, LLP/
BELLSOUTH I.P. CORP
100 GALLERIA PARKWAY
SUITE 1750
ATLANTA, GA 30339

EXAMINER	
TRUONG, CAM Y T	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2162	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/814,202	DANIELL ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Cam Y T Truong	2162	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with th correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-19* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-19* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *31 March 2004* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-19 are pending in this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

> Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3. Claims 1- 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.101 because the language of the claim raises a question as to whether the claim is directed merely to an abstract idea that is not tied to a technological art, environment or machine which would result in a practice application producing a concrete, useful, and tangible result to form the basis of statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C 101.

As regarding to:

Claim 1 recites "a method" and do not positively recite that the method is processed by a computer or a machine so as to realize its functionality. Thus, claim 1 is merely abstract idea whereby "receiving an instant messaging (IM) address of a contact; receiving an email address of a contact; correlating the IM address to a single reference identifier (ID), the single reference ID being adapted to identify the individual contact" is being processed without any links to a practical result in the technology arts and without computer manipulation.

Claims 2-5 claim "a method" and do not positively recite that the method is processed by a computer or a machine. Thus, the claimed invention is considered as

non-functional descriptive material and is not directed to a computer or a manufacture article.

Claim 6 claims "a method" and do not positively recite that the method is processed by a computer or a machine that is used implemented the method so as to realize its functionality. Thus, claim 6 is merely abstract idea whereby "receiving user input, the user input comprising multiple instant messaging (IM) addresses of an individual contact, the multiple IM addresses comprising IM addresses from different IM accounts" is being processed without any links to a practical result in the technology arts and without computer manipulation.

Claims 7-10 claim "a method" and do not positively recite that the method is processed by a computer or a machine. Thus, the claimed invention is considered as non-functional descriptive material and is not directed to a computer or a manufacture article.

Claim 11 recites "a system" and do not positively recite that the system is processed by a computer or a machine that is used implemented the method so as to realize its functionality. Thus, claim 11 is merely abstract idea whereby "receive logic configured to receive user input, the user input comprising multiple instant messaging (IM) addresses of an individual contact, the multiple IM addresses comprising IM addresses from different IM accounts, each of the different IM accounts being adapted to transmit and receive IM messages using a different IM protocol" is being processed

without any links to a practical result in the technology arts and without computer manipulation.

Claims 12-19 claim "a system" and do not positively recite that the system is processed by a computer or a machine. Thus, the claimed invention is considered as non-functional descriptive material and is not directed to a computer or a manufacture article.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Knauerhase (US 2003/0023691 A1).

As to claim 1, Knauerhase teaches the claimed limitations:

"receiving an instant messaging (IM) address of a contact" as a single user may have many different associated communication channels through which the user can receive messages from other users. For example, a user Rob may have multiple e-mail addresses and multiple IM addresses, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent

over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. The above information shows that the sender has received IM addresses of the recipient. The recipient is represented as a contact of the sender. The sender is represented as a user (page 1, col. Right, lines 8-22),

"receiving an email address of a contact" as a single user may have many different associated communication channels through which the user can receives messages from other users. For example, a user Rob may have multiple e-mail addresses and multiple IM addresses, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. The above information shows that the sender has received email addresses of the recipient. The recipient is represented as a contact of the sender. The sender is represented as a user (page 1, col. Right, lines 8-22),

"correlating the IM address to a single reference identifier (ID)" as a user Rob may have multiple e-mail addresses and multiple IM addresses, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent

over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify a recipient (specified by m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose multiple IM addresses of a recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to IM addresses. Since a message is correlated to the recipient's ID; thus, each IM address is correlated to the recipient's ID (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56),

"the single reference ID being adapted to identify the individual contact" as specifying m.to ID to identify the recipient. It means that the ID is used to identify the recipient (page 3, col. Right, lines 53-56), and,

"correlating the email address to the single reference ID" as a user Rob may have multiple e-mail addresses, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify the recipient (specified by m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose multiple email addresses of a recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to email addresses. Since

a message is correlated to the recipient's ID; thus, each IM address is correlated to the recipient's ID (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 53-56).

As to claim 2, Knauerhase teaches the claimed limitation "receiving an email address of the individual contact" as the sender must keep track of the recipient's various device addresses e.g., email addresses and telephone numbers. This information shows that the sender has received the recipient's email address (fig. 2, page 1, col. Right, lines 22-24) and

"correlating the email address of the individual contact to the reference ID" as a user Rob may have multiple e-mail addresses, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify the recipient (specified by m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose multiple email addresses of a recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to email addresses. Since a message is correlated to the recipient's ID; thus, each email address is correlated to the recipient's ID (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56).

As to claim 3, Knauerhase teaches the claimed limitation "receiving a telephone number of the individual contact" as the sender must keep track of the recipient's various device addresses e.g., email addresses and telephone numbers. This information shows that the sender has received the recipient's email address (fig. 2, page 1, col. Right, lines 22-24); and

"correlating the telephone number of the individual contact to the reference ID" a user Rob may have multiple telephone numbers any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify the recipient (specified by m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose multiple telephone numbers of the recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to these telephone numbers. Since a message is correlated to the recipient's ID; thus, each telephone number is correlated to the recipient's ID (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56).

As to claim 4, Knauerhase teaches the claimed limitation "receiving an address of the individual contact" as the sender keeps track of the recipient's various device addresses e.g., voice email, email addresses, telephone number and fax numbers.

This information shows that the sender must receive addresses of the recipient (fig. 2, page 1, col. Right, lines 22-24); and

"correlating the address of the individual contact to the reference ID" as a user Rob may have voice email and email address, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify the recipient (specified by m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose another email address of the recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to IM addresses. Since a message is correlated to the recipient's ID; thus, another email address is correlated to the recipient's ID (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56).

As to claim 5, Knauerhase teaches the claimed limitation "receiving personal information of the individual contact" as the sender keeps track of the recipient's various device addresses e.g., email address, telephone number and fax numbers. This information shows that the sender has received fax numbers of the recipient. Fax numbers are represented as personal information (fig. 2, page 1, col. Right, lines 22-24); and

"correlating the personal information of individual contact to the reference ID" a user Rob may have fax numbers, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify the recipient (specified by m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose fax numbers of a recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to fax numbers. Since a message is correlated to the recipient's ID; thus, each fax number is correlated to the recipient's ID. These fax numbers are presented as the personal information of the recipient (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 6-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knauerhase (US 2003/0023691 A1) in view of Donovan (US 2004/0193722).

As to claim 6, Knauerhse teaches the claimed limitations:

"receiving user input, the user input comprising multiple instant messaging (IM) addresses of an individual contact" as a single user may have many different associated communication channels through which the user can receives messages from other users. For example, a user Rob may have multiple e-mail addresses and multiple IM addresses, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, intended for a recipient. The above information shows that the sender can choose multiple IM addresses of a recipient to route messages to the recipient. When the sender chooses multiple IM addresses of the recipient, these multiple IM addresses of the recipient are inputted and the routing procedure receives the input. The recipient is represented as a contact of the sender. The sender is represented as a user (page 1, col. Right, lines 8-22, page 3, col. Left, lines 53-54),

"the multiple IM addresses comprising IM addresses from different IM accounts" as a single user may have many different associated communication channels through which the user can receives messages from other users. For example, a user Rob may have multiple e-mail addresses and multiple IM addresses, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. In particular, a user may have accounts on two or more different IM networks that facilitate interoperation between them e.g., a user on

IM network X can send/receive IMs to /from a user on IM network Y. Thus, user Rob's multiple IM addresses are from different IM accounts (page 1, col. Right, lines 10-15; page 3, col. Left lines 2-5),

"correlating each of the multiple IM addresses to a single reference identifier (ID)" as a user Rob may have multiple e-mail addresses and multiple IM addresses, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify a recipient (specified by m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose multiple IM addresses of a recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to IM addresses. Since each message is correlated to the recipient's ID; thus, each IM address is correlated to the recipient's ID (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56),

"the single reference ID being adapted to identify the individual contact" to identify the recipient specified by m.toID. It means that the ID is used to identify the recipient (page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56).

Knauerhase does not explicitly teach the claimed limitation "each of the different IM accounts being adapted to transmit and receive IM messages using a different IM protocol". Donovan teaches a system that provides instant messaging (IM) on and

through the Internet across various platforms. More particular, the system allows individuals to exchange messages and files over the Internet substantially instantaneously across multiple and different protocols and systems. For example, Bill has an account at Yahoo that is adapted to receive IM message using a protocol. Ted has an account at AOL that is adapted to receive IM message using another protocol. Bill can exchange instant messages with Ted and Rhoda, and Ted and Rhoda can exchange messages with Bill. When Bill talks to Ted, their messages appear in the message area. The above information shows that user accounts being adapted to forward and receive IM messages using different protocols (figs. 1& 5, page 1, col. left, lines 5-10; page 4, col. left, lines 18-24; page 3, col. Right, lines 1-10).

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Donovan's teaching of providing instant messaging (IM) on and through the Internet across various platforms, allowing individuals to exchange messages and files over the Internet substantially instantaneously across multiple and different protocols and exchanging instant messages using different protocols from different user accounts to Knauerhase's system in order to allow individuals to engage in an instant messaging session even if the individuals are subscribers to different service providers and further to provide instant messaging between multiple IM platforms.

As to claim 7, Knauerhase teaches the claimed limitation "receiving an email address of the individual contact" as the sender must know and keep track of the

recipient's various device addresses e.g., email address and telephone number. This information shows that the sender has received the recipient's email address (fig. 2, page 1, col. Right, lines 22-24) and

"correlating the email address of the individual contact to the reference ID" as a user Rob may have multiple e-mail addresses, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify the recipient (specified by m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose multiple email addresses of a recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to email addresses. Since a message is correlated to the recipient's ID; thus, each email address is correlated to the recipient's ID (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56).

As to claim 8, Knauerhase teaches the claimed limitation "receiving a telephone number of the individual contact" as the sender must know and keep track of the recipient's various device addresses e.g., email address and telephone number. This information shows that the sender has received the recipient's email address (page 1, col. Right, lines 22-24); and

"correlating the telephone number of the individual contact to the reference ID" a user Rob may have multiple telephone numbers any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify the recipient (specified by m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose multiple telephone numbers of the recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to these telephone numbers. Since a message is correlated to the recipient's ID; thus, each telephone number is correlated to the recipient's ID (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56),

As to claim 9, Knauerhase teaches the claimed limitation "receiving an address of the individual contact" as the sender must know and keep track of the recipient's various device addresses e.g., voice email, email address, telephone number and fax numbers. This information shows that the sender must receive addresses of the recipient (page 1, col. Right, lines 22-24); and

"correlating the address of the individual contact to the reference ID" as a user Rob may have voice email and email address, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can

be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify the recipient (specified by m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose another email address of the recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to IM addresses. Since a message is correlated to the recipient's ID; thus, another email address is correlated to the recipient's ID (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56),

As to claim 10, Knauerhase teaches the claimed limitation "receiving personal information of the individual contact" as the sender must know and keep track of the recipient's various device addresses e.g., email address, telephone number and fax numbers. This information shows that the sender has received fax numbers (page 1, col. Right, lines 22-24); and

"correlating the personal information of individual contact to the reference ID" a user Rob may have multiple e-mail addresses, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a

message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify the recipient (specified by m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose pager numbers of a recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to pager numbers. Since a message is correlated to the recipient's ID; thus, each IM address is correlated to the recipient's ID. These pager numbers are presented as the personal information of the recipient (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56),

As to claim 11, Knauerhase teaches the claimed limitations:

"receive logic configured to receive user input, the user input comprising multiple instant messaging (IM) addresses of an individual contact" as a software is configured to receive a sender select multiple IM addresses of a recipient to route messages to the recipient .The recipient is represented as a contact of the sender. The sender is represented as a user (page 1, col. Right, lines 8-22, lines 55-61; page 2, col. Left, lines 1-3),

"the multiple IM addresses comprising IM addresses from different IM accounts" as a single user may have many different associated communication channels through which the user can receives messages from other users. For example, a user Rob may have multiple e-mail addresses and multiple IM addresses, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. In particular, a user may have accounts on two or more different IM networks that facilitate interoperation between them e.g., a user on IM network X can send/receive IMs to /from a user on IM network Y. Thus, user Rob's

multiple IM addresses can be from different IM accounts (page 1, col. Right, lines 10-15; page 3, lines 2-5),

"correlate logic configured to correlate each of the multiple IM addresses to a single reference identifier (ID)" as a user Rob may have multiple e-mail addresses and multiple IM addresses, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify the recipient (specified by m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose multiple IM addresses of a recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to IM addresses. Since a message is correlated to the recipient's ID; thus, each IM address is correlated to the recipient's ID (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56),

"the single reference ID being adapted to identify the individual contact" as specifying m.to ID to identify the recipient. It means that the ID is used to identify the recipient (page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56).

Knauerhase does not explicitly teach the claimed limitation " each of the different IM accounts being adapted to transmit and receive IM messages using a different IM protocol". Donovan teaches a system that provides instant messaging (IM) on and through the Internet across various platforms. More particular, the system allows

individuals to exchange messages and files over the Internet substantially instantaneously across multiple and different protocols and systems. For example, Bill has an account at Yahoo that is adapted to receive IM message using a protocol. Ted has an account at AOL that is adapted to receive IM message using another protocol. Bill can exchange instant messages with Ted and Rhoda, and Ted and Rhoda can exchange messages with Bill. When Bill talks to Ted, their messages appear in the message area. The above information shows that user accounts being adapted to forward and receive IM messages using different protocols (figs. 1& 5, page 1, col. left, lines 5-10; page 4, col. left, lines 18-24; page 3, col. Right, lines 1-10).

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Donovan's teaching of providing instant messaging (IM) on and through the Internet across various platforms, allowing individuals to exchange messages and files over the Internet substantially instantaneously across multiple and different protocols and exchanging instant messages using different protocols from different user accounts to Knauerhase's system in order to allow individuals to engage in an instant messaging session even if the individuals are subscribers to different service providers and further to provide instant messaging between multiple IM platforms.

As to claim 12, Knauerhase teaches the claimed limitations "receive logic configured to receive an email address of the individual contact" as a user Rob may

have multiple e-mail addresses, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify the recipient (specified by m.to ID). The above information shows the system that has included a software to allow the sender to receive multiple email addresses of the recipient (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56); and

"correlate logic configured to correlate the email address of the individual contact to the reference ID" as a user Rob may have multiple e-mail addresses, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify the recipient (specified by m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose multiple email addresses of a recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to email addresses. Since a message is correlated to the

recipient's ID; thus, each email address is correlated to the recipient's ID (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56).

As to claim 13, Knauerhase teaches the claimed limitations:

" means for receiving an email address of the individual contact" as the sender must know and keep track of the recipient's various device addresses e.g., email address and telephone number. This information has received that the sender must receive the recipient's email address (page 1, col. Right, lines 22-24) and

"means for correlating the email address of the individual contact to the reference ID" as a user Rob may have multiple e-mail addresses, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify the recipient (specified by m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose multiple email addresses of a recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to email addresses. Since a message is correlated to the recipient's ID; thus, each email address is correlated to the recipient's ID (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56).

As to claim 14, Knauerhase teaches the claimed limitations:

" receive logic configured to receive a telephone number of the individual contact" as the sender must know and keep track of the recipient's various device addresses e.g., email address and telephone number. This information shows that the sender has received the recipient's telephone number (page 1, col. Right, lines 22-24); and

"correlate logic configured to correlate the telephone number of the individual contact to the reference ID" as a user Rob may have multiple telephone number any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify the recipient (specified by m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose multiple telephone numbers of the recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to IM addresses. Since a message is correlated to the recipient's ID; thus, each telephone number is correlated to the recipient's ID (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56).

As to claim 15, Knauerhase teaches the claimed limitations:

"means for receiving a telephone number of the individual contact" as the sender must know and keep track of the recipient's various device addresses e.g., email

address and telephone number. This information shows that the sender must receive the recipient's email address (page 1, col. Right, lines 22-24); and

"means for correlating the telephone number of the individual contact to the reference ID" as a user Rob may have multiple telephone number any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify the recipient (specified by m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose multiple telephone numbers of the recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to IM addresses. Since a message is correlated to the recipient's ID; thus, each telephone number is correlated to the recipient's ID (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56).

As to claim 16, Knauerhase teaches the claimed limitations

"receive logic configured to receive an address of the individual contact" as the sender must know and keep track of the recipient's various device addresses e.g., voice email, email address, telephone number and fax numbers. This information shows that the sender must receive addresses of the recipient (page 1, col. Right, lines 22-24); and

"correlating the address of the individual contact to the reference ID" as a user Rob may have voice email and email addresses, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify the recipient (specified by m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose another email address of the recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to IM addresses. Since a message is correlated to the recipient's ID; thus, another email address is correlated to the recipient's ID (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56),

As to claim 17, Knauerhase teaches the claimed limitations

"means for receiving an address of the individual contact" as the sender must know and keep track of the recipient's various device addresses e.g., voice email, email address, telephone number and fax numbers. This information shows that the sender must receive addresses of the recipient (page 1, col. Right, lines 22-24); and

"means for correlating the address of the individual contact to the reference ID" as a user Rob may have voice email and email address, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient

210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify the recipient (specified by m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose another email address of the recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to IM addresses. Since a message is correlated to the recipient's ID; thus, another email address is correlated to the recipient's ID (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56).

As to claim 18, Knauerhase teaches the claimed limitations:

"receive logic configured to receive personal information of the individual contact" as the sender must know and keep track of the recipient's various device addresses e.g., email address, telephone number and fax numbers. This information shows that the sender has received addresses of the recipient (page 1, col. Right, lines 22-24); and

"correlate logic configured to correlate the personal information of individual contact to the reference ID" as a user Rob may have multiple e-mail addresses, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender

chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify the recipient (specified by m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose pager numbers of a recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to pager numbers. Since a message is correlated to the recipient's ID; thus, each IM address is correlated to the recipient's ID. These pager numbers are presented as the personal information of the recipient (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56).

As to claim 19, Knauerhase teaches the claimed limitation "means for receiving personal information of the individual contact" as the sender must know and keep track of the recipient's various device addresses e.g., email address, telephone number and fax numbers. This information shows that the sender has received addresses of the recipient (page 1, col. Right, lines 22-24); and

"means for correlating the personal information of individual contact to the reference ID" as a user Rob may have multiple e-mail addresses, any one or more of which may be used to route messages to Rob. As shown in fig. 2, a message 200 for a recipient 210 can be sent over any of one or more of 13 different communication channels 212. Either the sender or the recipient may desire that the message be sent over more than one of the channels 212. Typically, the sender chooses which of the channels the message is to be sent over. As indicated by the pseudo-code, the routing procedure first accepts a message, m, intended for a recipient and parses it to identify

the recipient (specified by m.to ID). In case, when the sender can choose pager numbers of a recipient to route messages to the recipient, messages are correlated to pager numbers. Since a message is correlated to the recipient's ID; thus, each IM address is correlated to the recipient's ID. These pager numbers are presented as the personal information of the recipient (page 1, col. right, lines 8-22; page 3, col. Right, lines 55-56).

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Auerbach et al (US 6549937) discloses a system that allows individuals to engage in an instant messaging session even if the individuals are subscribers to different service providers or different protocols (col. 2, lines 10-15). The subject matter disclosed is pertinent to claims 1, 6 and 11.

Appelman et al (US 6539421) discloses a system that allows a user to select addresses of contacts for conversations. The subject matter disclosed is pertinent to claim 1.

Contact Information

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cam Y T Truong whose telephone number is (571) 272-4042. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Firday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached on (571) 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Cam-Y Truong
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2162
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